

Northfield Senior Center

HEARING HEALTHCARE

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Baystate Franklin Medical Center**



**Baystate
Health**

**ADVANCING CARE.
ENHANCING LIVES.**

HEARING HEALTHCARE



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and
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Graduate Clinician

Did You Know???.

- 48 Million Americans have some degree of hearing loss
- Hearing loss is the third leading chronic illness following arthritis and hypertension
- Hearing loss may **DOUBLE** by 2060 in the United States
- Some degree of hearing loss is seen in:
 - ~30% of adults over 65 years
 - ~50% of adults over 75 years

What Causes Hearing Loss?

- Age
- Loud Noise
- Genetic Factors
- Ototoxic Medications
- Diseases (autoimmune, otosclerosis, meningitis, Meniere's, viruses, tumors)
- Head Trauma and Acoustic Trauma

Related Health Conditions

- Ear Infections and Middle Ear Fluid
- Dementia/Memory Loss Diseases-Hearing loss is linked to cognitive decline in aging adults
- Depression-Individuals with untreated hearing loss are at higher risk
- Hypertension-Strong correlation
- Diabetes-Studies show those with diabetes are twice as likely to have hearing loss than those without diabetes

Do You Have a Hearing Problem?



Do You.....

- Feel like you can hear, but not understand?
- Often ask people to repeat?
- Have family members who complain that you do not hear well?
- Play the TV louder than others?
- Hear better when you are looking at people?
- Avoid certain social situations like restaurants and groups because you can't hear?
- Hear ringing, buzzing, humming noises?

How is Hearing Loss Diagnosed?

- Talk to your Doctor
 - Rule out wax/medical conditions
- See an Audiologist
 - Minimum of a Masters or Doctoral degree
 - State licensure
 - National certification
 - Mandatory continuing education



TYPES OF HEARING LOSS

- **SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS:**
Most common hearing loss in adults, permanent damage to inner ear hair cells or auditory nerve
- **CONDUCTIVE HEARING LOSS:** Caused by a mechanical problem of the outer or middle ear or obstruction. Often can be treated medically/surgically
- **MIXED HEARING LOSS:** A combination of sensorineural and conductive hearing loss

Hearing Evaluation vs. Hearing Screening

- A hearing **screening** will show:
 - If a hearing loss is present
 - Whether further evaluation is indicated
- A hearing **evaluation** will test:
 - Lowest level for speech recognition
 - Speech clarity and Hearing Levels
 - Type of hearing loss
 - Permanent vs. fluctuating loss
 - If medical treatment or hearing aids are necessary

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- WAX REMOVAL
- PRESCRIPTION FOR EXTERNAL, MIDDLE OR INNER EAR INFECTION
- SURGERY
- HEARING AIDS





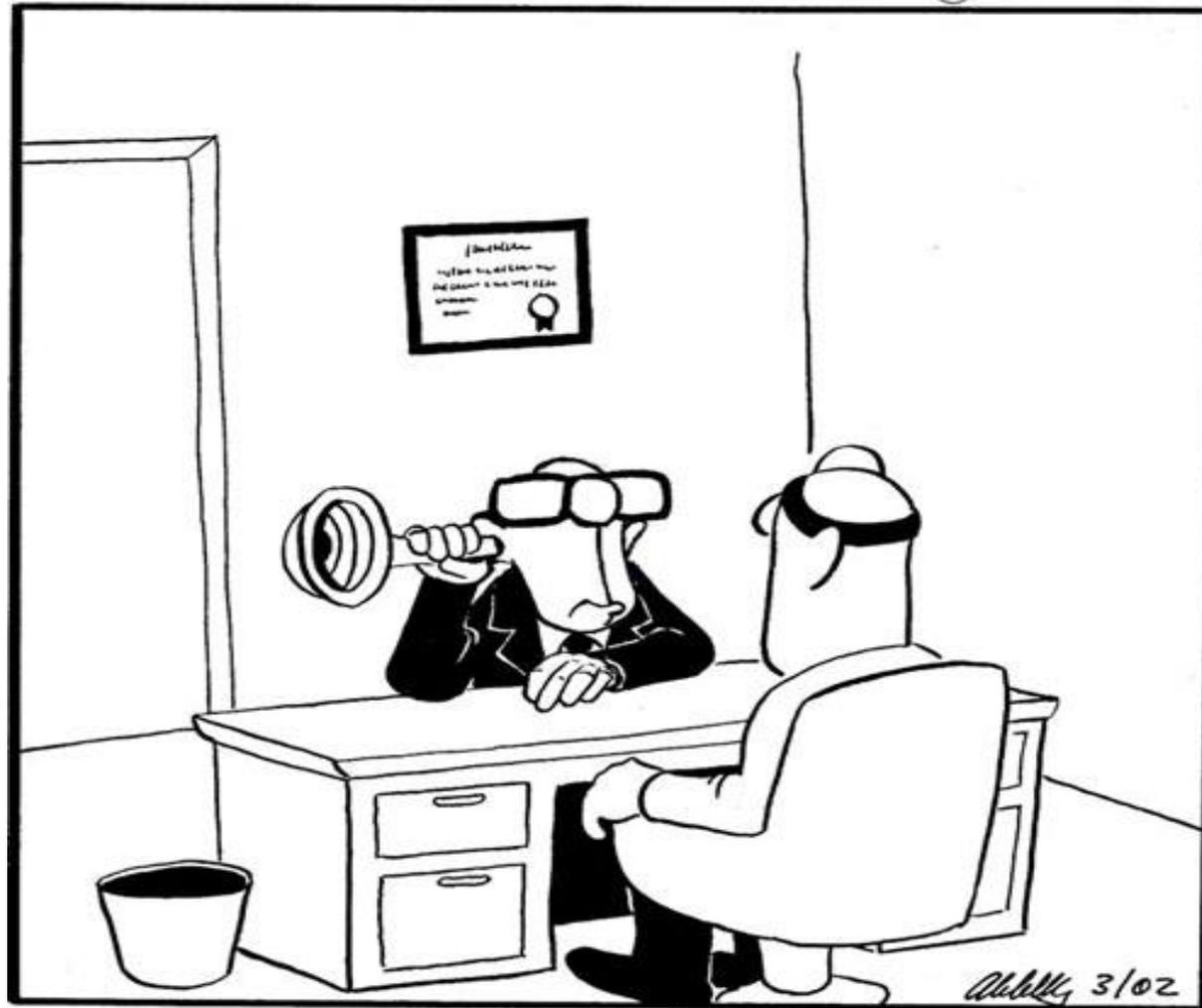
Did You know???

Only ~1 out of 5 people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wear one



Why are people hesitant to try hearing aids??

- Gradual onset- unaware loss exists
- Difficult to admit that they have a problem (negative association with aging)
- *Motivation*
- Family/friends have purchased aids and don't use them or don't like them
- *Cost*



"I said, it's the only hearing aid covered by your insurance."

Hearings Aids have come a long way!!!



Wireless Connectivity

- Picks up signal from cell phone and TV automatically after a simple pairing process.
- Allows for hands free streaming of phone call, music and TV



Bluetooth



- Enables users to wirelessly connect to a cell phone and other Bluetooth enabled devices
- Hear TV, phone, or music directly in the hearing device, without wires
- Allows for hands free use of electronics

Rechargeable Batteries!



Open-Ear Fittings



In-the-Ear Fittings



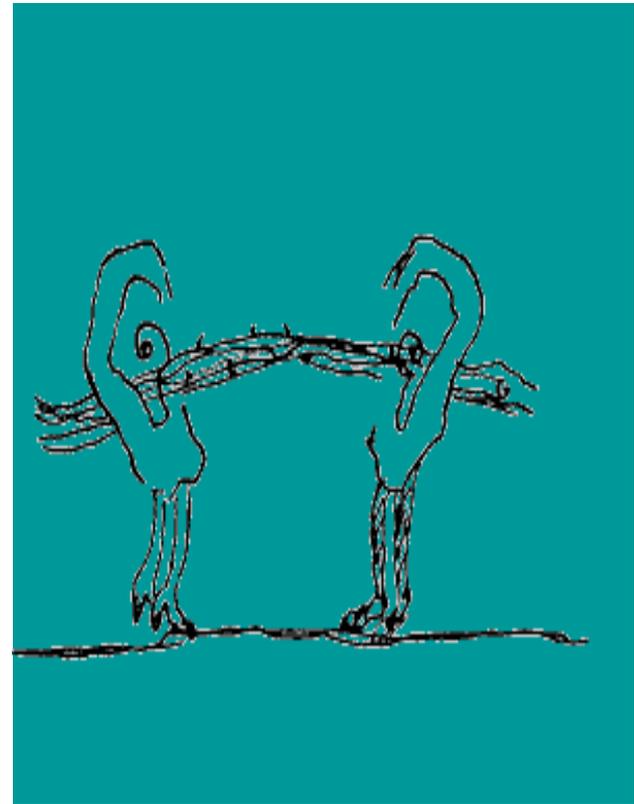
Why are Digital Hearing Devices Clearer?

- Sound is registered mathematically
- It is encoded as a series of numbers that measure pitch and volume at a given instant in time
- Processing is much more precise

Advantages of Digital Hearing Devices

- Clearer, crisper sound
- Better hearing in background noise
- Accommodate different listening situations by offering multiple programs
- Options can be turned on or off
- Setting can be updated as hearing changes

One vs. Two....



Binaural vs. Monaural Listening

- Our brains are wired to hear from both sides
- Better understanding of speech in noisy environments
- Localization
- Surround Sound
- Hearing people from both sides
- Exceptions:
 - Poor clarity in one ear
 - Dead ear/Malformed ear

Cost \$\$\$\$\$

- Level of technology determines cost
- Prices range from \$699 to \$2700 per hearing aid
- Hearing aids are typically a 5-year investment!
- Over-the-counter hearing aids for mild to moderate hearing loss



Insurance Coverage.....

varies depending on individual plans

➤ Many Health insurances cover hearing aids

➤ Always check with your insurance

➤ Most MA Medicaid covers hearing aids

➤ Veterans



Name	GRP	XXXXXXXX		
ELIZABETH SAMPLENAME				
ID #		2-5001		
000000000000		2-0000		
		2-9524		
Svc Type	XXX	Care Type	XXX	2-2583
RxBIN	XXXXXX	Office Copay	\$	2-0820
RxPCN	XXX	ER Copay	\$	2-0545
				1-4795
				2-0900
				2-5155

SYMBOLS PRINT HERE

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What Hearing Aid is Best for You??

- Depends on the type and severity of hearing loss
- Hearing needs and lifestyle
- Price
- Shape of ear canal
- Excessive wax
- Dexterity/vision
- Insurance Plan

Things to Keep in Mind...

- Hearing aids will not restore your hearing to normal
- They will increase your awareness of sounds and their sources
- Hearing aids take practice and patience

Factors Affecting a Successful Fitting:

- Motivation!!
- Lifestyle
 - Family support
 - Community Involvement vs. Isolation
- Hearing loss differences:
 - Degree of hearing loss
 - Discrimination (clear vs. distorted)
- Proper programming and adjustment of hearing aids

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

- USE FACE-TO-FACE COMMUNICATION
- COME INTO THE SAME ROOM (within 6-8 feet)
- DECREASE BACKGROUND NOISE
- SPEAK SLOWER AND CLEARER, NOT LOUDER
- GET ATTENTION PRIOR TO SPEAKING



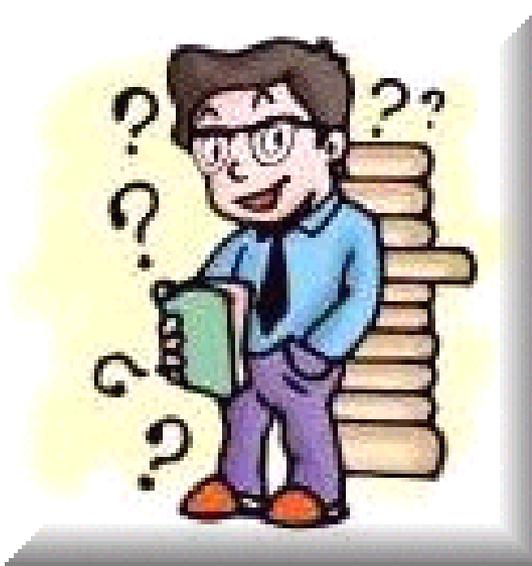
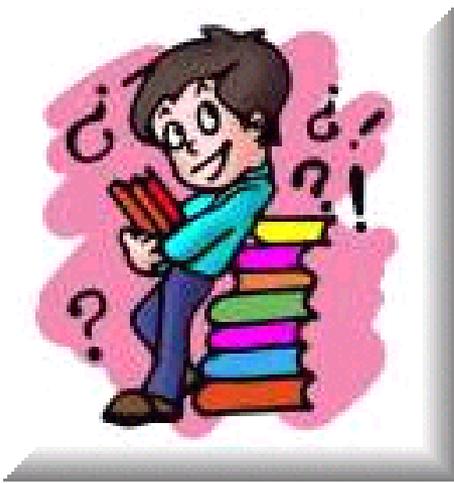
LOOP SYSTEMS

- Allow all Patrons to Hear the Speaker
- Headphones or Telecoil Enabled Hearing Aids Improve Hearing in Meetings, Events and Town Gatherings

HEAR HERE NORTHFIELD!



QUESTIONS?????





Baystate Rehabilitation Care

BAYSTATE
FRANKLIN MEDICAL CENTER

